

VAMP



n.17

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12/06/2014

COMICS





VAMPI

ULTIMATRIX

PART TWO

DAVID CONWAY STORY
CARLO BARBERI PENCILS
JUAN VLASCO INKS

MATT MILLA & AVALON STUDIOS COLORS
MICHAEL CONLEY LETTERS
MAUREEN MCTIGUE EDITS

WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

The truth is out! Vampi isn't alone in the world: Xenocide is her sister. But Archangel "owns" Xenocide -- she's product, he made her.



Deep in the bowels of Neverland, Vampi -- now with Xenocide fighting with her instead of against her -- takes on Archangel. He laughs at their poor efforts, taunting them, offering them a piece of his new world order, only to push them toward their deaths.



And in those final moments, Archangel reveals a greater truth, a true origin. Vampi meets the creature that is her mother.





BEAUTIFUL.
ISN'T SHE?

OH, MY.
GOD.

IT...
IT'S...



YES.

QUITE DEAD, I'M AFRAID.



UNLIKE HER BROOD,

THESE MONSTERS ARE YOUR *COUSINS* - GENETICALLY SPEAKING.

LIKE YOU, THEY'VE INHERITED YOUR MOTHER'S PRIMARY CHARACTERISTICS: THEY'RE *VIRTUALLY* INDESTRUCTIBLE.



AND THEIR BLOODLUST IS INSATIABLE.




HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT'S MY... MY MOTHER?!

SINCE YOU SHARE FIFTY PERCENT OF YOUR GENETIC STRUCTURE WITH HER, SHE IS YOUR MOTHER-SPEAKING BOTH BIOLOGICALLY AND, I DARESAY, LEGALLY.

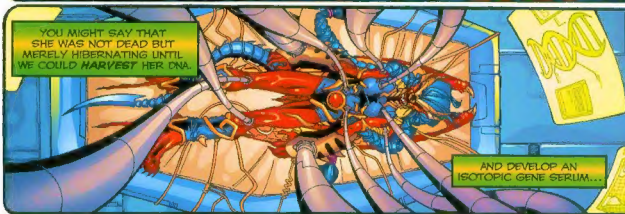


AS FOR WHAT SHE IS - MY BEAUTIFUL *TYRANT QUEEN*, AS I LIKE TO CALL HER - THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS RATHER LESS CLEAR.



SHE WAS DISCOVERED
BURIED IN A GEOLOGICAL
STRATUM THAT PREDATES
THE EMERGENCE OF HOMO
SAPIENS BY SEVERAL
MILLION YEARS.

A MEMBER OF A
HIGHLY-EVOLVED,
INTELLIGENT SPECIES
PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN
TO SCIENCE.



YOU MIGHT SAY THAT
SHE WAS NOT DEAD BUT
MERELY HIBERNATING UNTIL
WE COULD HARVEST HER DNA

AND DEVELOP AN
ISOTOPIC GENE SERUM...




WHICH
WE USED ON
HUMAN TEST
SUBJECTS.

LIKE YOU.

YOU SICK
BASTARD.

YOU'RE
ACTUALLY PROUD
OF THAT?!



YOUR ENHANCED
AGGRESSION, STRENGTH AND
ACCELERATED HEALING ARE
LEGACIES OF THE TYRANT QUEEN'S
XENOMORPHOLOGY.

PROUD?
OF COURSE I'M
PROUD!

JUST
LOOK AT WHAT
I ACHIEVED.

LOOK AT
YOURSELF -
SO WILD, SO
STRONG.

THE SLEEPING
DRAGON IN YOUR DNA
I ROUSED FROM AEONS
LONG SLUMBER.

YOU ARE
BOTH PRODUCTS
OF A TOP SECRET
MILITARY
PROJECT.

INTENDED AS
SENTIENT WEAPONS
SYSTEMS WHICH COULD
BE PROGRAMMED TO
DESTROY SPECIFIC
TARGETS - A PROGRAM
WE CALLED...

...XENOCIDE!

YOU MADE ME
BELIEVE I WAS YOUR
DAUGHTER. NOW YOU'RE
SAYING I'M NOT... AND
NOT EVEN HUMAN

WHAT
AM I?!

WHAT YOU ARE
IS MEANINGLESS
NOW.

BUT ONCE
YOU WERE MY
STAR PUPIL.

WAS JOINT PARTNER IN
A MAJOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
CORPORATION THAT RAN THE
XENOCIDE PROGRAM --

-- FACED WITH ONE
FAILURE AFTER
ANOTHER. UNTIL YOU.

THE PROJECT'S
GREATEST
SUCCESS...

...AND IT'S MOST
CATASTROPHIC
DISASTER.



A FLAW IN YOUR CONDITIONING
ENABLED YOU TO TURN ON YOUR
CONTROLLERS- AND FREE THE BROOD.


AN INDISCRIMINATE
BLOODBATH - NOT
EVEN VAMPI WAS SAFE.



ME?



...WAS
THERE?



THERE? YOU CLUNG TO
ME LIKE A TERRIFIED CHILD.
I TRIED TO PROTECT YOU -
YOU WERE MY PROPERTY,
AFTER ALL.

YOUR FOUNDATION
PROGRAMMING ENSURED
NEITHER OF YOU
RECOGNIZED THE OTHER.

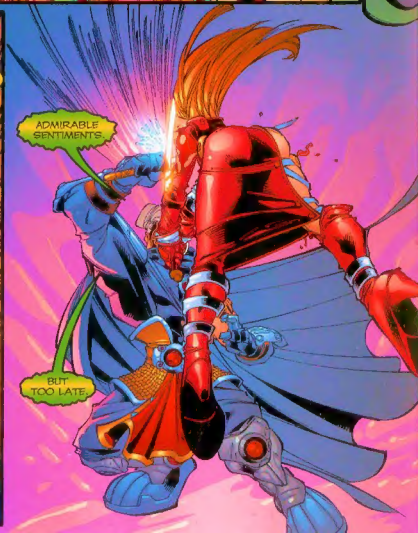
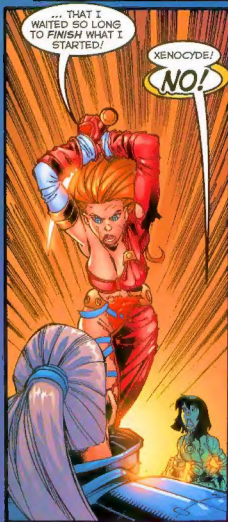
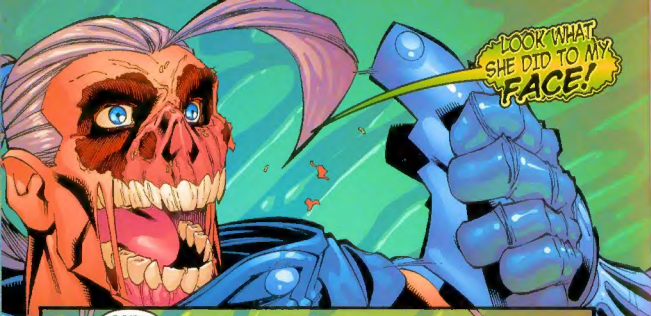


NOT EVEN
WHEN SHE TOOK
MY FACE...



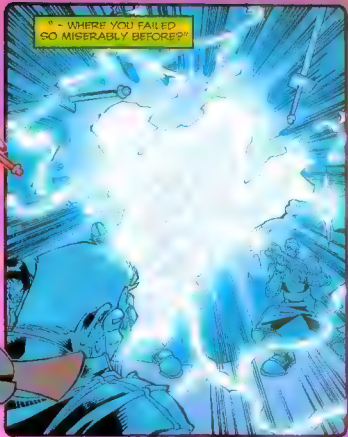
MY BEAUTIFUL,
BEAUTIFUL
FACE...





WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK YOU CAN
SUCCEED NOW--

"- WHERE YOU FAILED
SO MISERABLY BEFORE?"



"AND ALL YOU
DID WAS WATCH
THEN, TOO



...JUST
AS YOU ARE
DOING NOW.

AFTER ALL
THIS TIME YOU
HAVEN'T REALLY
CHANGED AT ALL.
HAVE YOU?



WRONG.





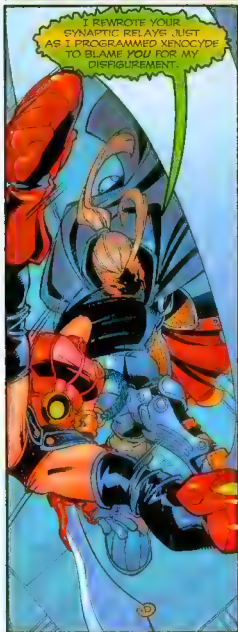
I HAVE
CHANGED!

I DON'T
REMEMBER ANYTHING
OF THIS-- BUT I KNOW
IT'S TRUE!

JUST LIKE
YOU IT'S TOO SICK
NOT TO BE!

OF
COURSE YOU DON'T
REMEMBER.

I
DELETED THOSE
MEMORIES.



I REWROTE YOUR
SYNAPTIC RELAYS, JUST
AS I PROGRAMMED XENOCYST
TO BLAME YOU FOR MY
DISFIGUREMENT.



I CONDITIONED
HER TO INTERPRET
THE PAIN I INFLICTED - HER
PUNISHMENT FOR WHAT
SHE DID - AS UNDYING
DEVOTION TO ME.

I TAUGHT
HER TO HATE YOU
AS MUCH AS SHE
LOVED ME.

BUT
WHY?

IF YOU HATE
HER SO MUCH, WHY NOT
JUST KILL HER?



KILL HER?

SHE
WAS A MULTI-
BILLION DOLLAR
INVESTMENT.

YOU - ON THE
OTHER HAND - WERE
AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
PROPOSITION.

"UNLIKE YOUR SISTER
YOUR POWERS WERE
INITIALLY DORMANT.



"AFTER ERASING YOUR
MEMORIES OF THE
XENOCYDE PROGRAM
YOU WERE EFFECTIVELY
'MOTHBALLED' ...

"-- AND RELOCATED TO
ONE OF THE INSTITUTIONS
WE USED AS A POOL FOR
SUITABLE TEST SUBJECTS.



"YOU WERE KEPT
UNDER REDUCED
SECURITY SURVEILLANCE.

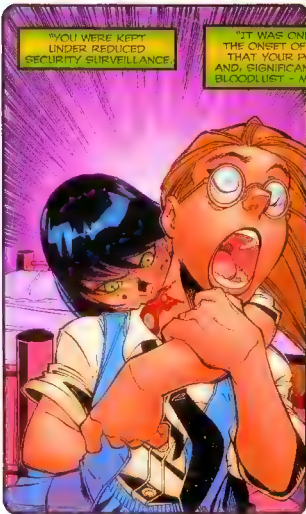
"IT WAS ONLY WITH
THE ONSET OF PUBERTY
THAT YOUR POWERS -
AND, SIGNIFICANTLY, YOUR
BLOODLUST - MANIFESTED.

"I RELISHED IT
AS I READ THE
REPORTS OF YOUR
TRANSFORMATION!

"I CAN IMAGINE
THE TERROR AND
CONFUSION YOU
MUST HAVE FELT.

"BUT BY THEN
YOU'D ESCAPED
THE INSTITUTION TO
BEGIN A LIFE
ON THE STREET.

"ONE THAT LED
INEVITABLY TO
YOUR CURRENT
ALLY -"



"... JACOB JONES."

OKAY,
THIS IS IT.

NEVERLAND
IS FINISHED.

AND WE'VE
GOT A POSITIVE
FIX ON VAMPI.

IF SHE'S
STILL THERE, I'LL
WILLING TO BET THAT
ARCHANGEL AND THE
LADDER ARE, TOO.

WELL,
GENTLEMEN, IT'S
TIME YOU EARNED
YOUR SALARIES.

LET'S GO
TO WORK.



THIS IS THE
ENDGAME.

INEVITABLE
AS IT IS, IT'S ALMOST
A PITY THINGS HAVE TO
END THIS WAY.



STILL,
YOU BROUGHT IT
ON YOURSELF.

AND
SENTIMENTALITY
IS A WEAKNESS
I ABHOR.

THERE WILL
BE NO ROOM FOR
WEAKNESS IN THE NEW
WORLD ORDER. THAT
IS MY GIFT TO
HUMANITY.

LOOK
AROUND -- SOON
THIS WILL BE ALL OF
YOUR WORLD.



BARBARITY
IS HUMANITY'S
NATURAL
STATE.

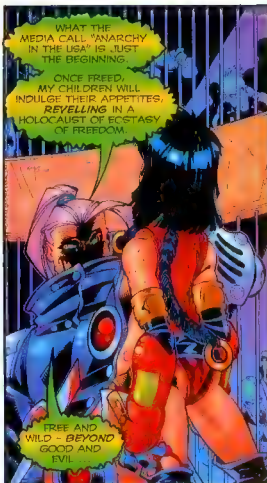
PHAGE
LIBERATED THEM
FROM THE REPRESSION
OF CIVILIZATION.

LOOK AT THEM--
A CANNIBAL TRIBE LIKE
MANKIND'S EARLIEST
ANCESTORS HURLING STONES
AT THE MOON, INTERPRETING
LIGHTING AS THE WRATH
OF GOD.

AND I AM
THEIR GOD-- WIELDING
THE ULTIMATE POWER OF
LIFE AND DEATH
OVER THEM.

I CAN
FLOOD THEIR
CAGES WITH LETHAL
GAS --

-- OR
FREE THEM.



WHAT THE MEDIA CALL "ANARCHY IN THE USA" IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

ONCE FREED, MY CHILDREN WILL INDULGE THEIR APPETITES, REVELLING IN A HOLOCAUST OF ECSTASY OF FREEDOM.

FREE AND WILD - BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL.



JUST AS YOU SHOULD BE.

YOU ARE THE FIRST OF THE COMING RACE.



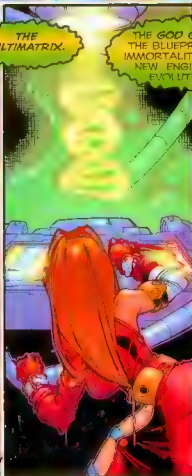
BUT YOU REJECTED THE APPETITE FOR DEATH AND NIGHT AND BLOOD THAT IS YOUR GENETIC BIRTHRIGHT.

YOU ARE THE BRIDGE BETWEEN MY TYRANT QUEEN AND HUMANITY.



STILL THE POWER TO INITIATE CREATION'S TERMINAL PHASE - THE NIGHTSIDE OF EDEN - IS STILL IN MY HANDS.

THE ULTIMATRIX.



THE GOD GENE - THE BLUEPRINT OF IMMORTALITY - THE NEW ENGINE OF EVOLUTION.

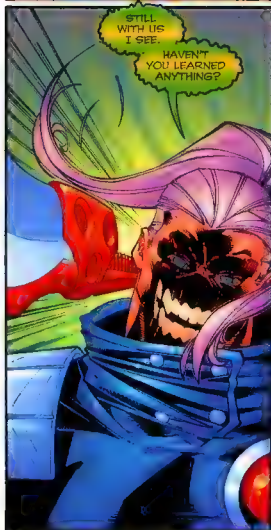
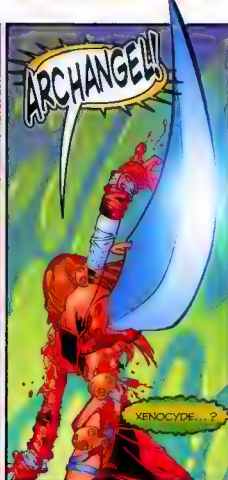
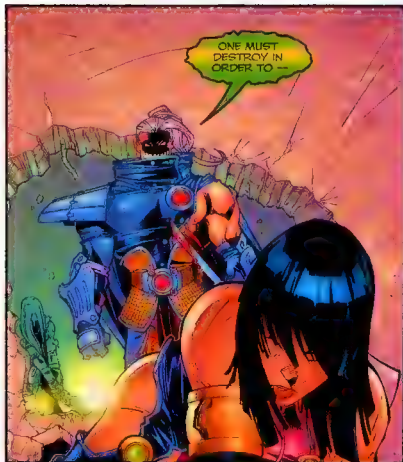


AND EVOLUTION IS A CRUEL, BLOODY BUSINESS.



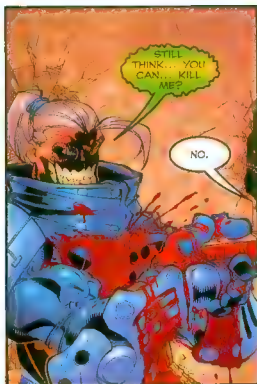


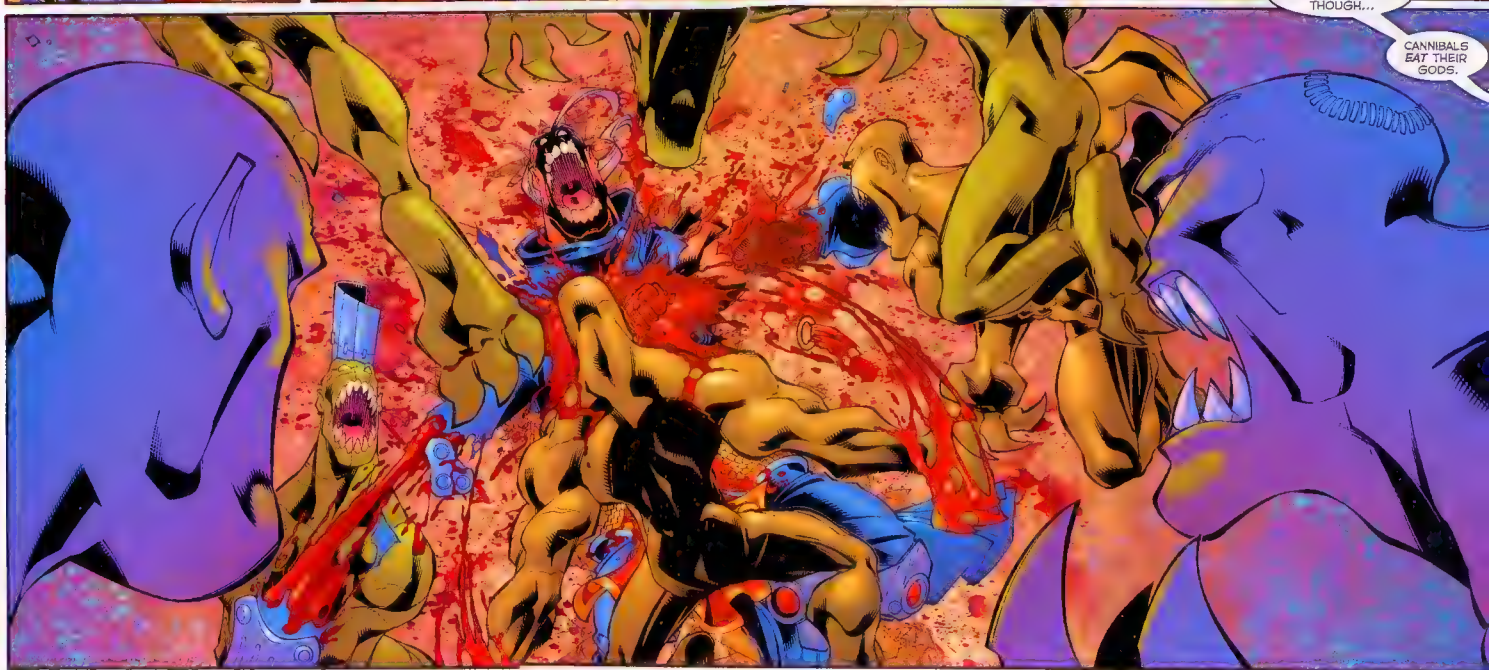
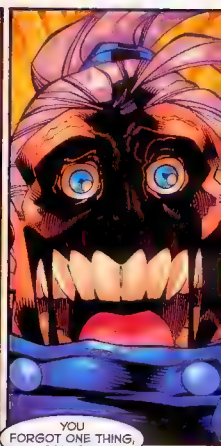
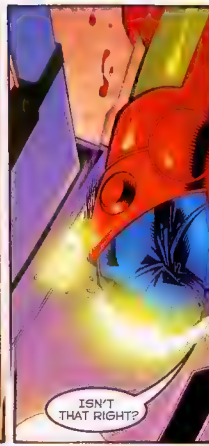














ISN'T
THAT RIGHT?



ISN'T THAT
WHAT MAKES YOU
A GOD TO YOUR
CANNIBAL
TRIBE?



YOU
FORGOT ONE THING,
THOUGH...

CANNIBALS
EAT THEIR
GODS.







ALL RIGHT,
WE'RE SAFE
NOW.

HOW ARE
YOU... FEELING?
ARE YOU...
OKAY?

HOW AM I ...
FEELING?

APART FROM
LEAVING HALF MY
GUTS ... ON THE
FLOOR BACK
THERE?

OR FINDING
OUT THE MAN I
CALLED... FATHER
FOR AS LONG AS I...
I CAN REMEMBER... WAS
A PSYCHOPATHIC
MONSTER... WHO
SCREWED WITH MY
MIND... TRIED TO...
KILL ME?

THE SAME MAN...
I... JUST WATCHED...
BEING... EATEN ALIVE...
BY SCUM-SUCKING
HUMAN VERMIN.

AND THEN...
THEN THERE'S...
YOU.

I WAS
PROGRAMMED...
TO HATE YOU.

FUNNY, HUH...
MY LONG-LOST SISTER...
MY WORST ENEMY ... ONE
AND THE SAME.

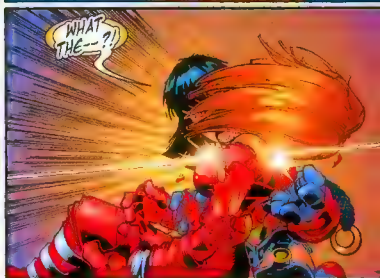


SO...
TO ANSWER...
YOUR QUESTION,
VAMPI.

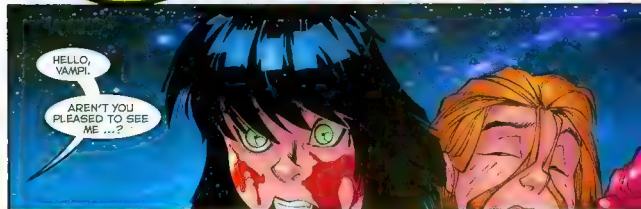
OKAY IS...
NOT... HOW I'D
DESCRIBE... THE
WAY I... FEEL.

SURE-- I
UNDERSTAND.

BUT THERE
ARE PEOPLE WHO
CAN HELP AND --



WHAT
THE-- ?!



HELLO,
VAMPI.

AREN'T YOU
PLEASED TO SEE
ME ... ?



-- I'VE BEEN
WORRIED SICK
ABOUT YOU!

TO BE CONCLUDED!

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NEXT ISSUE...



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